Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 04235 310833Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------310835Z 001686 /20
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
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USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T GENEVA 4235

EXDIS USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: MIRV VERIFICATION: DERAZHNYA AND PERVOMAYSK
(SALT TWO-1197)

REF: (A) 76 SALT TWO 1105 (B) 76 STATE 244079

1. REFERENCE (A) OUTLINES US DELEGATION PROPOSAL TO EXPLORE WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATION THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXCEPTION TO THE LAUNCHER TYPE RULE WHICH WOULD SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDE FROM THE 1320 MIRV LIMITATION AN AGREED NUMBER OF LAUNCHERS AT DERAZHNYA AND PERVOMAYSK WHICH THE SOVIET SIDE STATES ARE NOT LAUNCHERS OF MIRVED MISSILES.

2. REFERENCE (B) INSTRUCTED DELEGATION NOT TO PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME ON THIS ISSUE BUT INSTEAD TO SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FIVE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. CURRENT STATUS OF THIS EFFORT, BASED PRIMARILY ON BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS, IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) QUESTION: IS THE SITUATION AT CERAZHNYA AND PERVOMYSK UNIQUE?

ANSWER: SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED THAT IT IS UNIQUE.
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GENEVA 04235 310833Z

(B) QUESTION: ARE THE SOVIETS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE US PROPOSED LAUNCHER TYPE RULE FOR COUNTING ICBM AND SLBM MIRV LAUNCHERS OTHER THAN THOSE AT DERAZHNYA AND PERVOMYSK?

ANSWER: SOVIETS HAVE NOT VOLUNTEERED THAT THEY WOULD

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

ACCEPT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE US-PROPOSED LAUNCHER TYPE RULE FOR LAUNCHERS OTHER THAN THOSE AT D&P AND IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO ELICIT THE ANSWER TO SUCH A QUESTION WITHOUT VIOLATING PRIMARY INSTRUCTION TO "NOT PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME ON THIS ISSUE." HOWEVER, BASED ON THE OVERALL NEGOTIATING RECORD, WE BELIEVE THAT D&P IS PRIMARY FOR SOVIET OBJECTION TO SUBSTANCE OF LAUNCHER TYPE RULE.

(C) QUESTION: HOW MANY LAUNCHERS AT THESE TWO FIELDS DO THE SOVIETS PROPOSE NOT TO COUNT IN THE 1320 LIMIT?

ANSWER: 120.

(E) QUESTION: HOW ARE SUCH NON-MIRV LAUNCHERS DISTINGUISH-ABLE FROM MIRV LAUNCHERS AT THESE TWO FIELDS?

ANSWER: THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT TOLD US HOW TO DISTINGUISH MIRV LAUNCHERS FROM NON-MIRV LAUNCHERS AT D&P BUT THEY HAVE INSISTED THAT SUCH A DISTINCTION CAN BE MADE BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS.

(E) QUESTION: HOW LONG DO THE SOVIETS PROPOSE THESE LAUNCHERS BE CONSIDERED NON-MIRV LAUNCHERS?

ANSWER: THERE IS NO REAL EVIDENCE TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION BUT ONE SOVIET DELEGATE HAS CLAIMED THAT THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO PLANS FOR REPLACING THE NON-MIRVED MISSILES AT D&P WITH MIRVED MISSILES.

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3. IN THE LIGHT OF THE ABOVE ANSWERS, DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT FURTHER PROGRESS COULD BE MADE BY PURSUING THE D&P EXCEPTION APPROACH WITH THE SOVIETS AT THIS TIME. ACCORDINGLY, DELEGATION PROPOSES TO PROCEED ALONG LINES INITIALLY OUTLINED IN REFERENCE (A).

4. MORE SPECIFICALLY, DELEGATION WOULD PROPOSE TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FROM THE LAUNCHER TYPE RULE FOR AN AGREED NUMBER OF LAUNCHERS AT D&P WHICH THE SOVIETS AY DO NOT CONTAIN MIRVED ICBMS, IN THE CONTEXT OF SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE LAUNCHER TYPE RULE FOR ALL ICBM AND SLBM LAUNCHERS NOT SO EXCEPTED. DELEGATION PROPOSES TO PROCEED ALONG LINES WHICH WOULD REQUIRE SOVIETS TO (-) DESIGNATE IN A MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO THE US WHICH LAUNCHERS AT D&P ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE MIRV COUNT AND (2) UNDERTAKE ARRANGE-MENTS THAT WOULD ENABLE THE US ADEQUATELY TO VERIFY ANY FUTURE CHANGE IN THE STATUS OF THOSE LAUNCHERS. IN ADDITION, US PRO-POSAL WOULD BE MADE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE EXCEPTION REGARDING D&P WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONTINUING REEXAMINATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE EVENT OF SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER MIRV LIMITS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Subject: MIRV VERIFICATION: DERAZHNYA AND PERVOMAYSK (SALT TWO-1197)
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EO Systematic Review
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